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ASSOCIATION OF

AMERICAN RAILROADS

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 28, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 23 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 2.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 34 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 598 billion ton-miles, 1.9 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 23 totaled 438,914 cars, 9.3 percent below 1979, but 2.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 17.1 percent in the East, 0.4 percent in the South, and 8.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 4,714 cars, or 4.2 percent; grain showed an increase of 3,332 cars, or 11.3 percent. Sixteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 16 totaled 30,546 cars, down 14.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 55,733 trailers and/or containers, 11.2 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 1,054,775 cars, 10.6 percent lower than last year, and 1,921,854 trailers and/or containers, down 7.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/23/80:

	Loadings in Week ended August 23, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,850	I	3,332	11.3	I	1,418	4.5
Other farm products	3,877	I	819	26.8	D	249	6.0
Metallic ores	27,951	D	14,108	33.5	I	588	2.1
Coal	117,366	I	4,714	4.2	I	236	0.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,685	D	4,455	23.2	D	190	1.3
Nonmetallic minerals	16,256	D	690	4.1	I	1,055	6.9
Grain mill products	17,141	D	499	2.8	I	468	2.8
Food and kindred products	18,532	D	722	3.7	I	242	1.3
Primary forest products	19,885	D	1,801	8.3	I	338	1.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,543	D	3,366	26.1	I	607	6.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,138	D	1,403	6.5	I	570	2.9
Chemicals and allied products	25,932	D	1,970	7.1	I	923	3.7
Petroleum products	5,444	D	1,071	16.4	I	40	0.7
Stone, clay and glass products	15,989	D	3,466	17.8	D	237	1.5
Coke	3,885	D	2,116	35.3	D	38	1.0
Metals and products	13,240	D	5,552	29.5	I	492	3.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,982	D	2,526	16.3	I	1,560	13.7
Waste and scrap materials	10,989	D	3,001	21.5	I	264	2.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,864	D	2,116	16.3	I	406	3.9
All other carloads	41,151	D	5,070	11.0	I	1,785	4.5
LCL traffic	214	D	204	48.8	D	159	42.6
Total Cars Loaded	438,914	D	45,271	9.3	I	10,119	2.4
Corresponding week of 1979	484,185						
	<u>1980</u>		<u>1979</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	14,754,325		15,538,951		D	5.0	
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):							
33 weeks cumulative	579.9		568.4		I	2.0	
Week ended August 23	<u>17.9</u>		<u>18.4</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>2.8</u>	
34 weeks cumulative	597.8		586.8		I	1.9	